

A Message from Governor Haley Barbour

In the early days after we were struck by the worst natural disaster in American history I said while government can and should do many things, the private sector will guide the renaissance of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. People on the Coast displayed incredible resiliency and determination after Hurricane Katrina; so did Coast leaders, who brought historic value to the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal, and went on to form the Gulf Coast Business Council as the unified voice on public policy issues of importance to the Mississippi Coast Region. Such a voice is a critical component of successfully meeting the challenges of today and the unprecedented opportunities of tomorrow.

During the twelve months since its founding, the Business Council has provided tremendous leadership. For example, your hard work on the wind pool insurance legislation promises to bring greater stability to the insurance market and rates paid by Mississippi's homeowners and businesses. And, your creation of the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation will help find answers to affordable housing issues, the most pressing challenge facing our recovery.

The Gulf Coast Business Council is a testament to the importance of leadership in these post-Katrina times. Natural disasters do not create character, but Hurricane Katrina did reveal the impressive character of your nearly 200 members to the world.

Marsha and I congratulate you on your first year and look forward to a continued close relationship with you in the coming months as we all work together to rebuild the Coast bigger and better than ever.

Sincerely,

Governor Haley Barbour